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of industrial and manufacturing establishments. Research committees of two classes will be appointed: central committees, representing various departments of science, comprised of leading authorities in each field, selected in consultation with the president of the corresponding national society; local committees in cooperating institutions engaged in research.

The following plan of procedure is proposed:

1. The preparation of a national inventory of equipment for research, of the men engaged in it, and of the lines of investigation pursued in cooperating government bureaus, educational institutions, research foundations and industrial research laboratories; this inventory to be prepared in harmony with any general plan adopted by the proposed government council of national defence.

2. The preparation of reports by special committees, suggesting important research problems and favorable opportunities for research in various departments of science.

3. The promotion of cooperation in research, with the object of securing increased efficiency; but with careful avoidance of any attempt at coercion or interference with individual freedom and initiative.

4. Cooperation with educational institutions, by supporting their efforts to secure larger funds and more favorable conditions for the pursuit of research and the training of students in the methods and spirit of investigation.

5. Cooperation with research foundations and other agencies desiring to secure a more effective use of funds available for investigation.

6. The encouragement in cooperating laboratories of researches designed to strengthen the national defence and to render the United States independent of foreign sources of supply liable to be affected by war.

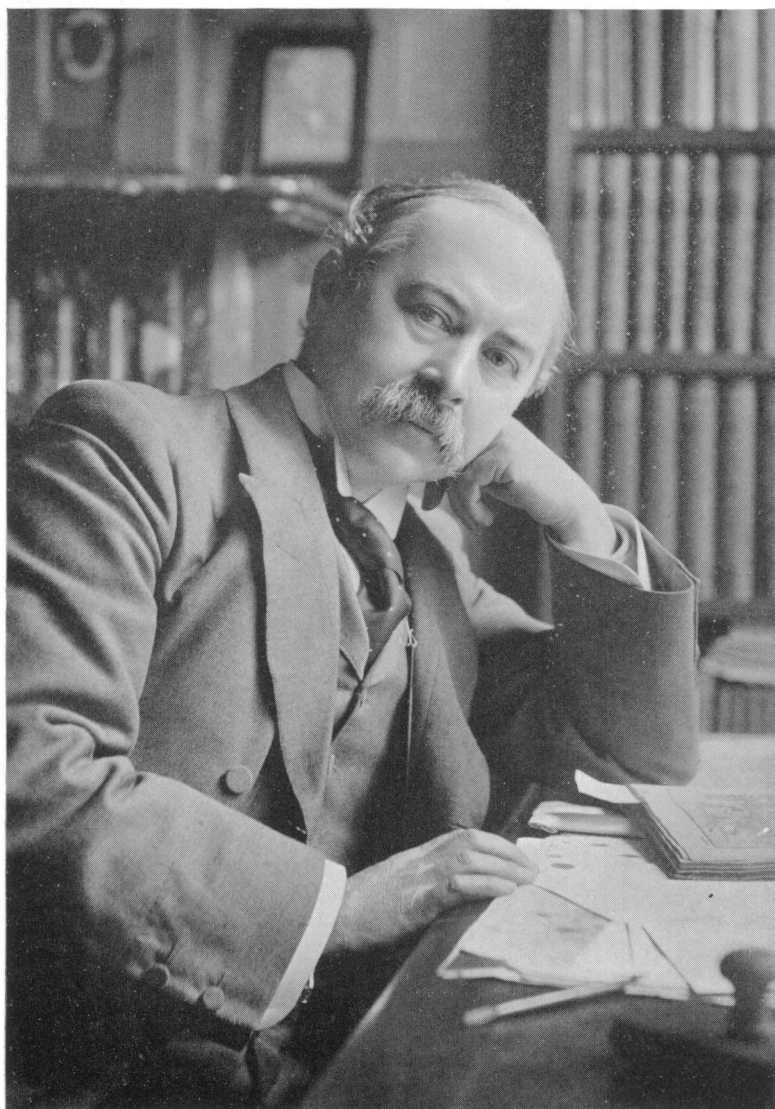
It is not clear why there should be a discrimination between educational institutions and research foundations, so that the former should be aided in securing larger funds and the latter in using their funds more effectively, and some scientific men may think it more desirable to cooperate with other nations in producing supplies where this can be done to the best advantage, rather than to prepare for war. The

National Research Council should, however, be able to perform a useful service, more especially in directing public attention to the importance of scientific research for the welfare of the nation and of the world.

THE EPIDEMIC OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS

THERE have been in New York City up to August 20 about 7,000 cases of infantile paralysis and 1,600 deaths and the epidemic has spread to a serious extent in adjacent parts of the state and in New Jersey. The only alleviating circumstance in connection with this disease, which from its ill-understood origin and mode of transmission, produces in these days somewhat the same psychologic effects as smallpox and the plague in past days, is that thorough measures have been undertaken to check the disease and that these may be extended to other diseases which entail an even greater amount of suffering and death than poliomyelitis.

Efforts are also being made in many places to obtain scientific information concerning the disease. Thus at the suggestion of Dr. Haven Emerson, health commissioner of New York City, a conference took place at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, early in August, of which Dr. Simon Flexner was chosen as chairman. A committee was appointed to consider all the phases of laboratory investigation, to suggest subjects and in some instances lines of study in connection with the disease. This committee consists of Dr. Flexner, Professor Ludvig Hektoen, University of Chicago, Professor Hans Zinsser, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; Professor Richard M. Pearce, Jr., University of Pennsylvania; Professor James W. Jobling, Vanderbilt University; Surgeon George W. McCoy, director of the hygienic laboratory at Washington, and Dr. Theobald Smith, of the Rockefeller Institute. Another committee was appointed to consider practical measures



SYLVANUS PHILLIPS THOMPSON,
whose death deprives England of one of its most distinguished physicists.

that might apply in the suppression of the epidemic. This committee consists of Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, University of Michigan, chairman; Professor Milton J. Rosenau, Harvard; Dr. William H. Park, department of health, New York City; Dr. Francis W. Peabody, Boston; Dr. John Howland, Johns Hopkins; Dr. Augustus B. Wadsworth, director of the state laboratories, Albany, and Professor Charles C. Bass, Tulane University. The members of the conference were conducted through the infantile paralysis wards of the Willard Parker Hospital and were present at a clinic held there. The research workers will carry with them cultures of the disease and will work out various lines of investigation in their own laboratories. The report of the conference was presented to Dr. Haven Emerson on August 4 and lays stress on:

1. The early recognition and notification of the disease, and

2. The immediate isolation of patients and cases of suspicious illness. Furthermore, on account of incomplete knowledge concerning the disease, measures known to be effective in checking the spread of other infections should be applied and these are, particularly, personal hygiene, cleanliness of person and surroundings, and care of food, which should be thoroughly cooked.

The special problems suggested for study are the following:

1. Methods of culture of the virus of poliomyelitis, with especial reference to corroboration of previous work, to simplification of methods, and to the distribution of the virus in the body of patients.

2. The immunologic reactions of patients, supposed carriers of the virus, and others.

3. The virulence for animals, of the crude virus, in order to determine if possible whether there are any differences in the virus causing outbreaks in different parts of the country as well as to discover, perchance, more susceptible animals for experimental purposes than are now available.

4. The microscopic study of the secretions of the nose and throat and of the intestinal contents of patients suffering from poliomyelitis, persons who

have come in close contact with such patients, and others.

5. The transmission of the disease by insects and domestic animals and other possible modes of transmission.

6. The study of practical methods of disinfection.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of John B. Murphy, the distinguished Chicago surgeon; of William Cole Esty, professor emeritus of mathematics, Amherst College; of William Simon, professor of chemistry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore; of Sir Victor Horsley, the distinguished English surgeon, and of Sir William Ramsay, the eminent British chemist.

THE Royal Society of Edinburgh has elected as foreign honorary fellows, Professor D. H. Campbell, professor of botany, Leland Stanford University; General W. C. Gorgas, U. S. Army, and Professor E. C. Pickering, director of Harvard College Observatory.—The Hon. Bertrand Russell, F.R.S., one of the most distinguished English students of philosophy, was recently fined for issuing pamphlets to conscientious objectors to military service and deprived of his lectureship at Trinity College, Cambridge; now it is said he has been refused a passport to visit America to keep his engagement to lecture at Harvard University.

THE vocational-educational bill, providing for federal cooperation with the states in promoting agricultural and industrial education, makes an annual appropriation beginning at \$500,000 and increasing each year by \$250,000 until \$3,000,000 is reached, to be apportioned to the states in proportion to their rural population.—The jury in the Surrogates' Court of New York City has declared invalid the will of Amos F. Eno, according to which Columbia University was made the residuary legatee and would receive an amount estimated at over four million dollars. It is understood that Columbia University will seek to obtain a new trial.